

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancel)
2. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
 - (a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and
 - (b) microbes within at least the core of the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons.
3. (Original) A system as recited in claim 2, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet.
4. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
 - (a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and
 - (b) microbes within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet, and ~~A system as recited in claim 3,~~ wherein the floater has an opening, and the pellet is located in an opening in the floater.
5. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, 2, wherein the microbes are attached to powder which is pressed into a pellet.

6. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the powder is a clay material.
7. (Original) A system as recited in claim 5, wherein the powder is a bentonite clay.
8. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, 2, wherein the microbe is a natural ubiquitous hydrocarbon-oxidizing microorganism for use in removing hydrocarbons and organic materials from soils and fresh and salt water by natural oxidative pathways.
9. (Cancel)
10. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, 2, wherein the foam is open celled and adapted to absorb hydrocarbons.
11. (Currently Amended) A method for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:
 - (a) placing microbes, adapted to digest hydrocarbons, into at least the core of a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water,
 - (b) placing the floater containing the microbes into a body of water containing hydrocarbons,
 - (c) allowing the hydrocarbons to penetrate the floater and to contact the microbes, and
 - (d) allowing the microbes within the floater to digest the hydrocarbons.

12. (Original) A method as recited in claim 11, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) placing microbes, adapted to digest hydrocarbons, into a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water,

(b) placing the floater containing the microbes into a body of water containing hydrocarbons,

(c) allowing the hydrocarbons to penetrate the floater and to contact the microbes, and

(d) allowing the microbes within the floater to digest the hydrocarbons, wherein the microbes are in the form of a pellet, and ~~A method as recited in claim 12,~~ wherein the floater has a slit, and the pellet is located in a slit on the floater.

14. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 13, ~~11~~, wherein the microbes are attached to powder which is pressed into a pellet.

15. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the powder is a clay material.

16. (Original) A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the powder is a bentonite clay.

17. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 13, ~~11~~, wherein the microbe is a natural ubiquitous hydrocarbon-oxidizing microorganism for use in removing hydrocarbons and organic materials from soils and fresh and salt water by natural oxidative pathways.

18. (Cancel)

19. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in claim 13, ~~11~~, wherein the foam is open celled and adapted to absorb hydrocarbons.

20. (Currently Amended) A method for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) placing microbes, adapted to digest hydrocarbons, into a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water,

(b) placing the floater containing the microbes into a body of water containing hydrocarbons,

(c) allowing the hydrocarbons to penetrate the floater and to contact the microbes, and

(d) allowing the microbes within the floater to digest the hydrocarbons, ~~A method as recited in claim 11,~~ wherein the microbes are mixed into the polymeric foam prior to being foamed.

21. (Currently Amended) A system as recited in claim 4, ~~2~~, wherein the microbes are in the form of a liquid.

22. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons, ~~The system as recited in claim 2,~~ wherein the microbes are mixed into the polymeric foam prior to being foamed.

23. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons, ~~The system as recited in claim 2,~~ wherein the floater has an opening, and the microbes are located in an opening in the floater.

24. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes located at least within the core of the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons.

25. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 26, ~~24~~, wherein the microbes are in the form of a tablet, powder or liquid.

26. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes located at least within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons. ~~The system as recited in claim 24~~, wherein the microbes are located throughout the floater.

27. (Currently Amended) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes located at least within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons. ~~The system as recited in claim 24~~, wherein the floater has an opening, and the microbes are located in an opening in the floater.

28. (Previously Presented) A hydrocarbon bioremediation system for removing hydrocarbons from a body of water, comprising:

(a) a floater formed of a porous polymeric foam and adapted to float in or on the surface of the body of water, and

(b) microbes within the floater, adapted to digest the hydrocarbons,
wherein the floater has an opening, and the microbes are located at least in the opening in
the floater, and wherein the microbes are in the form of a tablet, powder or liquid.